

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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- 1 A method of providing bingo game bonus win events based on bingo game bonus patterns in a bingo gaming system, the method comprising:
  - determining at least one number of bingo balls to be drawn in association
  - 10 with a bingo bonus pattern, making at least one bingo bonus win event thereby;
  - assigning a win amount to each of said at least one bonus win event;
  - allocating a percentage of virtual bingo card purchase amounts for bonus payouts such that said allocated amounts and a frequency-based calculation of said at least one win event and said assigned win amount averaged over time are
  - 15 approximately equal;
- playing bingo games including generation of bingo ball draws for each game;
  - generating at least said one number of bingo balls to be included in said bingo ball draws before ending each bingo game;
- 20 determining, for each virtual bingo card in each bingo game, if a bonus win event occurred; and
  - awarding said assigned win amount corresponding to said win event.

2 The method of claim 1 where said at least one bingo bonus pattern comprises 4  
corners and where said at least one number of bingo balls comprises 50.

3 The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- 5 generation of at least one predetermined pool containing elements which  
correspond to bingo game outcomes;  
randomly selecting a number of elements from said pool, said selected  
number based on a total number of virtual bingo cards in a bingo game;  
sending said selected elements to player terminals corresponding to virtual  
10 bingo cards in said bingo game; and  
sending no-win bingo game results to player terminals corresponding to  
virtual bingo cards in said bingo game, if any.

4 A bingo gaming system with bingo game bonus win events based comprising:

- 15 means for associating a number of bingo balls drawn in succession, starting  
with a first ball to be drawn for a bingo game, with a bingo bonus pattern making  
at least one bingo bonus win event thereby;  
means for assigning a win amount to each of said at least one bonus win  
event;  
20 means for allocating a percentage of any amount spent in the purchase of  
virtual bingo cards to bonus payouts, where said allocated amounts are

approximately equal to a frequency-based calculation of said at least one win event and said assigned win amount;

means for playing bingo games including generation of bingo ball draws for each game;

5 means for including at least said number of bingo balls in said bingo ball draws before ending each bingo game;

means for determining, for each virtual bingo card in each bingo game, if a bonus win event occurred; and

means for awarding said assigned win amount corresponding to said win event.

5 The system of claim 4 where said bingo bonus pattern comprises 4 corners and where said number of bingo balls comprises 50.

15 6 The system of claim 4 further comprising:

means for generation of at least one predetermined pool containing elements where each element corresponds to a bingo game outcome;

means for randomly selecting a number of elements from said pool, said selected number based on a total number of virtual bingo cards in a bingo game;

20 means for sending said selected elements to player terminals corresponding to virtual bingo cards in said bingo game; and

means for sending no-win bingo game results to player terminals  
corresponding to virtual bingo cards in said bingo game, if any.

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